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April 18, 2005

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The Honorable Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Applications for Consent to the Transfer of Control of  
Licenses and authorizations from Nextel Communications,  
Inc., and its Subsidiaries to Sprint Corporation  
WT Docket No. 05-63

Dear Chairman Martin:

CSD is a non-profit organization based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, that provides communication access services to more than three million people who are deaf and hard of hearing through offices and contracts in more than thirty states across the nation. CSD employs more than 3,000 people in the delivery of sign language interpreting, text relay operations, video relay operations and a variety of human service programs.

Communication access is important to people who are deaf and hard of hearing because it is a lifeline that ensures safety, it provides self-sufficiency and independence, and it allows integration with the community at large.

CSD's long-standing relationship with Sprint dates back to 1992. Sprint is the nation's largest provider of telecommunications relay service (TRS) to the deaf and hearing community with innovative services like Internet relay, CapTel and Video Relay. CSD's history with Sprint Relay is as its operations sub-contractor, providing the more than 2,500 relay operators, sign language interpreters, and video technology that enable tremendous gains in communication access in more than twenty call centers across the United States.

CSD is writing to express its support for the Sprint-Nextel merger. This merger will be beneficial for deaf and hard of hearing constituencies because it will allow the combined company to demonstrate its continued commitment to relay through the ongoing development of innovative communications solutions for persons with disabilities. It is anticipated that the new company will extend Sprint products and services across a wider population. Additionally, investments by the new company in

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high-speed wireless data networks will allow the development of new services, thereby accelerating the availability of video and multimedia applications to people with disabilities.

CSD urges the FCC to find the Sprint-Nextel merger to be in the public interest. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Soukup", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the top left of the signature.

Ben Soukup, President and CEO